

ARTHRITIS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 15, 2020

5:00 – 6:00 pm

meet.google.com/ftv-hzgc-jch

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PIN: 212 422 215#

Committee Members Present

Rachel Pigott (Chair)

Meg Gwaltney

Dr. Summit Bassi

Committee Members Absent

Linda Kline

Maryland Department of Health Staff Present

Olubukola Alonge

Kristi Pier

1. Roll Call/ Approval of minutes for April 28, 2020 meeting

Rachel called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm with a roll call and welcome. There was a quorum and the minutes for both the April and June meetings were approved.

2. Discussion

Meg wanted to know how the council has been helpful to the State, what are the accomplishments of the council and how could this be improved on? A response to this question will be provided at the August meeting. The committee needs to update the arthritis action plan to reflect one priority/ objective. Since there is no budget for a graphic designer to support infographics from the creative considerations, how do we work on outlined strategies given the limited resources? The plan of the committee at this time is to promote the first 4 strategies in the [2020 Osteoarthritis Public Health Agenda](#) developed by the Osteoarthritis Alliance, CDC and the Arthritis Foundation

Some suggestions can be seen below:

- Use of newsletters to highlight important days such as the May Arthritis Awareness Month. We should start working towards this for next year.
- Blogs highlighting local resources, a section on environmental scanning of area walkability for people with arthritis. We also discussed how this work aligns with the work of the disability committee and how resources can also be shared in the disability newsletter.
- Navigate people to the [Arthritis Foundation](#) website which has several great resources e.g. Let's get moving. The link to their website can also be sent to providers especially in partnership with their local boards such as the State Board of Occupational Therapy.

- Dr. Bassi suggested working with EMRs like the UMMS EPIC to set up a system that can link a diagnosis code of arthritis to other resources on arthritis that can be provided to patients. He would speak to their CIO about it and see how information from the osteoarthritis plan can be added to their system.

Rachel got the contacts of 4 rheumatologists from the hand surgeons she works with and has reached out to one who was out of the office till July 20. She will also reach out to the new contact person from the Arthritis Foundation to have someone sit on the Council and Committee and update us during the August meeting.

3. **Next Steps**

- The committee decided to have monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 5 – 6 pm. The meetings will be after the larger Health and Wellness Council meetings in October, January, April and July). Calendar invites have been sent out to all members for the next 1 year.
- Rachel will edit the action plan to only reflect the priority/ objective decided on by the committee.
- Committee members should add to the list of ideas provided by Rachel in an email from July 18, 2020.
- Dr. Bassi will provide us an update on the EPIC discussion with his organization at the next meeting.
- Rachel will update us on securing a rheumatologist and someone from the arthritis foundation at the next meeting.
- Buki will discuss Meg's question with Kristi and provide an update in August.

4. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm

Next Meeting: August 19, 2020; 5-6 pm